

1 STEVEN P. COHN, ESQ. SBN 96808
2 ADVOCACY CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT LAW
3 2084 Alameda Way
4 San Jose, CA 95126
5 Telephone (408) 557-0300 E-filing
Facsimile (408) 557-0309

6 Attorneys for Plaintiff
7 KEVIN MANSFIELD

Filed

MAY - 4 2012

RICHARD W. WIEKING
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE

paid
S
8

ADR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

12 KEVIN MANSFIELD,

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 GILBANE BUILDING COMPANY;
16 THOMAS F. GILBANE, JR.; WILLIAM J.
17 GILBANE, JR.; DOES 1 THROUGH 50,
18 inclusive,

19 Defendants

CV 12 Case No. 02237

HRL

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

1. Failure to Pay Overtime and Minimum Wage (California Labor Code §§ 510, 1194(a) and 1815; 29 U.S.C. §§ 207, 216(b), and 255(a))
2. Failure to Pay Meal Period and Rest Break Premiums (California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512)
3. Failure to Reimburse Business-Related Expenses (California Labor Code § 2802)
4. Violation of Employee Retirement Income Security Act (29 U.S.C. § 1001, et seq.)
5. Unfair Competition (California Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq.)

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

27 //

28 //

1 COMES NOW PLAINTIFF KEVIN MANSFIELD and alleges as follows:

2

3

PARTIES

4 1. Defendant GILBANE BUILDING COMPANY (hereinafter "GBC"), at all times
5 relevant, is and was a corporation or other business entity conducting business in Santa Clara
6 County, California.

7 2. Defendants THOMAS F. GILBANE, JR. and WILLIAM J. GILBANE, JR. are
8 the managing owners who are liable to Plaintiff for unpaid wages and remedies under the Fair
9 Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201, et seq.

10 3. Plaintiff is presently unaware of the true names and capacities of Defendants
11 sued hereinafter as DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, and therefore sues these Defendants by such
12 fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to allege their true names and capacities
13 when ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each of the
14 fictitiously named Defendants is responsible in some manner for the occurrences herein alleged
15 and that Plaintiff's damages were proximately caused by such Defendants.

16 4. At all relevant times, each of the Defendants was the agent, servant, joint
17 venturer, partner, and employee of each of the remaining Defendants, and in doing the things
18 hereinabove and below alleged, was acting within the course and scope of such agency.

19 5. Plaintiff KEVIN MANSFIELD at all times relevant was employed by
20 Defendants as a Project Accountant.

21 6. At all times relevant, Plaintiff was an "employee" as defined by and subject to
22 California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 4-2001 (hereinafter "Wage Order 4-
23 2001") and the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq., at § 203(e)(1).

24 7. At all times relevant, Defendants, and each of them, were "employers" as
25 defined by and subject to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq., at § 203(d).

26 8. At all times relevant, Defendant GBC was an "employer" as defined by and
27 subject to Wage Order 4-2001.

28

JURISDICTION/VENUE

9. This is the proper venue as the actions complained of took place in its jurisdictional limits and at least one Defendant is believed to be located, to reside, and/or to conduct business within its jurisdictional limits, and the employment contract was entered into and to be performed within its jurisdictional limits.

10. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this matter as it raises a question of federal law under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended (“FLSA”; 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq.), and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”; 29 U.S.C. § 1001, et seq.).

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Failure to Pay Overtime and Minimum Wage)
(California Labor Code §§ 510, 1194(a) and 1815;
29 U.S.C. §§ 207(a), 216(b) and 255(a))

(Against All Defendants)

11. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference paragraphs 1 through 10 of the Complaint as though set forth in full.

12. Defendants operate a business enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce as defined by 29 U.S.C. § 203(r) and (s) and related Department of Labor Regulations.

13. Defendants routinely required Plaintiff to work more than eight hours in a day or forty hours in a week; however, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff wages at an overtime rate of pay, in violation of California Labor Code § 510 and 29 U.S.C. § 207(a), and failed to pay Plaintiff any wages for said overtime hours worked.

14. In failing to pay Plaintiff overtime wages, and in failing to pay the minimum wage, Defendants, and each of them, willfully violated the applicable FLSA and California Labor Code statutes.

15. As a proximate result of Defendants' misconduct as aforesaid, Plaintiff incurred

1 damages in the form of lost overtime wages in an amount according to proof and in excess of
2 this court's minimum jurisdictional limits.

3 16. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194, Plaintiff seeks, as earned but unpaid
4 overtime wages and wages for all hours worked, payment at one and a half times the regular
5 rate for all hours worked in excess of 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week, in amounts according to
6 proof and in excess of this court's minimum jurisdiction. Plaintiff is entitled to and additionally
7 seeks an award of pre-judgment interest on the unpaid wages set forth herein.

8 17. Defendants, and each of them, intentionally, with reckless disregard for their
9 responsibilities under the FLSA and California Labor Code § 510, failed to pay Plaintiff his
10 proper wages, and Defendants are thus liable to Plaintiff for liquidated damages in an amount
11 equal to his lost wages over a three-year statute of limitations, pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C.
12 §§ 216(b) and 255(a).

13 18. Plaintiff has incurred attorney's fees in bringing this action, and, as such, is
14 entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs under the FLSA and California
15 Labor Code § 1194 in amounts according to proof.

16 19. At the time of the termination of Plaintiff's employment, Defendants, and each
17 of them, failed to pay Plaintiff for all said unpaid overtime, entitling Plaintiff to liquidated
18 damages and waiting time penalties pursuant to the applicable California Labor Code section(s).

19 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter set forth.

20
21 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **(Failure to Pay Meal Period and Rest Break Premiums)**

23 **(California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512)**

24 **(Against Defendants GBC and Does 1 through 50)**

25 20. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference paragraphs 1 through 19 of the
26 Complaint as though set forth in full.

27 21. Defendants GBC and Does 1 through 50 routinely did not permit Plaintiff to take
28 meal periods or rest breaks as required by California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and Wage

1 Order 4-2001. Plaintiff was not provided or authorized to take a thirty-minute, uninterrupted
2 meal break, and Plaintiff was not compensated for missed meal periods. Further, Plaintiff was
3 not allowed to take ten-minute rest breaks every four hours of compensable labor performed.

4 22. Plaintiff did not willfully or voluntarily waive meal or rest periods. Any express
5 or implied waivers obtained from Plaintiff were not willfully obtained or voluntarily agreed to,
6 but rather were a condition of employment or part of an unlawful contract of adhesion.

7 23. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 226.7 and Wage Order 4-2001, Defendants
8 GBC and Does 1 through 50 were required to provide Plaintiff with ten minutes rest time for
9 every four hours worked, or major fraction thereof, or pay Plaintiff one additional hour of pay at
10 Plaintiff's regular rate of compensation for each work day Defendants prevented Plaintiff from
11 taking his rest breaks. Defendants GBC and Does 1 through 50 never paid Plaintiff one hour of
12 pay to compensate him for Defendants not permitting Plaintiff to take a meal period or rest
13 break.

14 24. In violation of Labor Code § 226.7 and Wage Order 4-2001, Defendants GBC
15 and Does 1 through 50 prevented Plaintiff from taking meal periods and rest breaks and failed
16 to pay Plaintiff one additional hour of pay for each work day Defendants prevented Plaintiff
17 from taking meal periods and rest breaks.

18 25. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, Plaintiff has suffered
19 damages in an amount according to proof and in excess of this court's minimum jurisdictional
20 limits.

21 26. As a result of suffering injury from Defendants' aforementioned violations,
22 pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7, 218.5, 218.6, 229, and 558, Plaintiff is entitled to recover, and
23 hereby seeks penalties as wages, additional civil penalties in the amount of fifty dollars for the
24 first pay period Plaintiff was underpaid, and one hundred dollars for each subsequent pay period
25 Plaintiff was underpaid, plus interest at the legal rate, costs of suit, and reasonable attorney's
26 fees, in an amount according to proof.

27 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter set forth.
28 //

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Failure to Reimburse Business-Related Expenses)

(California Labor Code § 2802)

(Against Defendants GBC and Does 1 through 50)

27. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference paragraphs 1 through 26 of the Complaint as though set forth in full.

28. Defendants GBC and Does 1 through 50 failed to reimburse Plaintiff for business-related expenses incurred in direct consequence of the discharge of Plaintiff's duties, in violation of California Labor Code § 2802.

29. As a proximate result of Defendants misconduct, as aforesaid, Plaintiff incurred damages in amounts according to proof and in excess of this court's minimum jurisdictional limits.

30. Plaintiff has incurred attorney's fees in bringing this action, and, as such, is entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code § 2802(c) in amounts according to proof.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter set forth.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of Employee Retirement Income Security Act)

(29 U.S.C. § 1001, et seq.)

(Against Defendants GBC and Does 1 through 50)

31. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference paragraphs 1 through 30 of the Complaint as though set forth in full.

32. At all times relevant, Plaintiff was engaged in protected activity under the U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. § 1001, et seq., in that Plaintiff was to receive a non-discretionary bonus, as a percentage of total annual compensation, in the form of contributions by Defendants to Plaintiff's 401(k) retirement fund.

28 33. Defendants GBC and Does 1 through 50 took adverse employment action against

1 Plaintiff, including, but not limited to, the failure to pay overtime, minimum wage, and meal
2 and rest break premiums, such that Plaintiff's annual compensation was reduced, resulting in a
3 reduction in Defendants' contributions to Plaintiff's 401(k) fund, and such other and further acts
4 according to proof.

5 34. In doing the acts hereinabove complained of, Defendants GBC and Does 1
6 through 50 acted with the specific intent to violate ERISA and to interfere with Plaintiff's
7 attainment of an entitled right under ERISA.

8 35. As a proximate result of the conduct of Defendants GBC and Does 1 through 50,
9 Plaintiff was caused to suffer special damages by way of loss of earnings and employment-
10 related benefits in amounts according to proof, and such other and further damages that may be
11 proven at trial, all in amounts in excess of this court's minimum jurisdictional limits.

12 36. Plaintiff has incurred attorney's fees and costs incident to bringing this action, in
13 amounts according to proof.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter set forth.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Unfair Competition)

(California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.)

(Against Defendants GBC and Does 1 through 50)

37. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference paragraphs 1 through 36 of the
Complaint as though set forth in full.

38. At all times relevant, Plaintiff's employment with Defendants was subject to the
FLSA, California Labor Code, and applicable Wage Orders promulgated by the California
Industrial Welfare Commission, which required all employees to be paid certain overtime for
work performed in excess of 40 hours per week or 8 hours per day, required all employees to be
paid one additional hour of pay for each work day in which the employees were prevented from
taking meal periods and rest breaks, and required all employees to be reimbursed expenses
incurred in direct consequence of the discharge of the employees' duties.

1 39. At all times relevant, and within the four years preceding the filing of this action,
2 Defendants GBC and Does 1 through 50 were subject to California's Unfair Competition Law
3 (California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.), but failed to comply with the
4 FLSA, California Labor Code, and applicable Wage Orders by failing to pay Plaintiff, a
5 member of the general public, as aforesaid, with Defendants keeping to themselves the amount
6 which should have been paid to Plaintiff, a member of the general public.

7 40. In doing so, Defendants GBC and Does 1 through 50 violated California's Unfair
8 Competition Law, Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq., by committing acts
9 prohibited by the applicable FLSA, California Labor Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission
10 Wage Orders, thus giving Defendants a competitive advantage over other employers and
11 businesses with whom Defendants were in competition and who were in compliance with the
12 law.

13 41. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's misconduct, as aforesaid,
14 Plaintiff's rights under the law were violated and Plaintiff, a member of the general public,
15 incurred damages in amounts according to proof and in excess of this court's minimum
16 jurisdictional limits.

17 42. Defendants GBC and Does 1 through 50 have been aware of the existence and
18 requirements of the Unfair Competition Law (Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.)
19 and the requirements of the applicable state and federal wage and hour laws, but willfully,
20 knowingly, and intentionally failed to pay Plaintiff, a member of the general public, properly as
21 aforesaid.

22 43. Plaintiff, a member of the general public, having been illegally deprived of the
23 earnings to which he is legally entitled, herein seeks restitution of such unpaid wages pursuant
24 to California Business & Professions Code § 17203.

25 44. Plaintiff has incurred attorney's fees and costs incident to bringing this action, in
26 amounts according to proof.

27 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter set forth.
28 //

PRAYER

Plaintiff prays for judgment and an award of damages as follows:

UNDER THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:

1. For an award of special damages in amounts according to proof;
 2. For an award of penalties and waiting time penalties pursuant to the applicable California Labor Code Section(s);
 3. For an award of liquidated damages pursuant to the applicable section of the FLSA and California Labor Code;
 4. For an award of Plaintiff's costs of suit and reasonable attorneys' fees;
 5. For an award of interest at the legal rate and according to proof; and
 6. For such other and further relief as the Court deems proper.

UNDER THE SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION:

1. For an award of special damages in amounts according to proof;
 2. For an award of penalties pursuant to the applicable California Labor Code Section(s);
 3. For an award of Plaintiff's costs of suit and reasonable attorneys' fees;
 4. For an award of interest at the legal rate and according to proof; and
 5. For such other and further relief as the Court deems proper.

UNDER THE THIRD AND FOURTH CAUSES OF ACTION:

1. For an award of special damages in amounts according to proof;
 2. For an award of Plaintiff's costs of suit and reasonable attorney's fees;
 3. For an award of interest at the legal rate and according to proof; and
 4. For such other and further relief as the Court deems proper.

UNDER THE FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION:

1. For an award of special damages in amounts according to proof;
 2. For an award of restitution of Plaintiff's unpaid earnings according to proof;
 3. For an award of Plaintiff's costs of suit and reasonable attorneys' fees; and
 4. For such other and further equitable relief as the Court deems proper.

1
2 Dated: April 25, 2012
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

ADVOCACY CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT LAW
By: 
STEVEN P. COHN, ESQ.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
KEVIN MANSFIELD